

HOUSE BILL 1891
By Bowers

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 7, Part 1, relative to hepatitis A and B vaccinations for students.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 7, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated section:

Section 49-7-124.

(a) Any person enrolling as a full-time or part-time student at a public or private institution of higher education, which provides a four-year or two-year program of instruction, shall present evidence of vaccinations against hepatitis A and B prior to enrollment or shall complete vaccinations for hepatitis A and B within nine (9) months after enrollment as a condition of continued attendance at the institution.

(b) The institution of higher education shall provide enrolling persons with educational information concerning hepatitis A and B. The institution is not required to provide or pay for vaccinations against hepatitis A and B.

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a), a student shall not be required to receive a vaccination for hepatitis A or B if:

(1) The student furnishes a written statement to the institution of higher education from a licensed physician certifying that immunization by hepatitis A or B vaccine is medically contraindicated; or

(2) The student files a signed, written statement with the institution of higher education that such immunization conflicts with the student's religious tenets and practices. If the student is a minor, the student's parent or guardian shall file a signed, written statement that such immunization conflicts with the religious tenets or practices of the student, parent or guardian. The written statement shall be affirmed under the penalties of perjury.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2004, the public welfare requiring it.